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AC 4421(3) HECKMONDWIKE
Urban District of Heckmondwike.

Medical Officer's Annual REPORT.

FOR 1923

HECKMONDWIKE,
THE NORTH ACCOUNT BOOK MANUFACTURING CO., PRINTERS.



Urban District of Heckmondwike.

Annual
REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1923

BY

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Member of the Royal Sanitary Institute, Etc.*

HECKMONDWIKE :

THE NORTH ACCOUNT BOOK MANUFACTURING CO., PRINTERS.

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COUNCIL OFFICES,
HECKMONDWIKE,
April 4th, 1923.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Heckmondwike Urban
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

The returns of vital statistics from the Registrar General having arrived on April 1st, it has been possible to complete this Annual Report in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health as specified in Circular 451, of December 1923.

The General Death Rate and the Infantile Death Rate give cause for satisfaction, the former being the lowest on record for Heckmondwike.

There has also been a welcome diminution in the number of notified infectious diseases compared with previous years. This is particularly noteworthy, as there was much Scarlet Fever in neighbouring areas.

Cordial thanks are due from me to the members of the Council for the manner in which they invariably consider my recommendations and their adoption of the best available means for improving the hygienic conditions of the town.

To my colleagues, the officers of the Council, I express my appreciation of the help given on any occasion when requested.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. H. PEARCE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Summary of Statistics, 1923.

Area of Urban District (in acres)	696
Civil Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	9087
Population at Census of 1921 (males 4180, Females 4843)	9023
Total Private Families at Census 1921	2343
Census Population living more than 2 persons per room	17·8 ^{Per Cent.}
Average number of persons per house	3·7
Density of population per acre	13·0
Number of Births, (Males 80 ; Females 64) Total	144
Illegitimate Births (Males 11 ; Females 4) ... Total	15
Birth Rate per 1,000 living	15·8
Illegitimate Birth Rate per 1,000 Births Registered ...	104
Number of Deaths, including residents who died away from Heckmondwike, (Males 46 ; Females 52) Total	98
Nett Death Rate per 1,000 living	10·7
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births Registered ...	76
Illegitimate Death Rate per 1,000 Births Registered ...	66·6
Tuberculosis Death Rate (all forms) per 1,000	0·9
Phthisis Death Rate per 1,000	0·6
Zymotic Death Rate per 1,000	0·2
Respiratory Diseases Death Rate per 1,000 (excluding Phthisis)	1·4
Cancer Death Rate per 1,000	0·8
Cases of Infectious Disease notified	34
Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified	7
Cases of other forms of Tuberculosis notified	3
Number of Inquests	8
Rateable Value	£93181 7s. 6d.
Rate of Id. in £ produces £388 approx.	£388
Rainfall in inches	29·6
Number of Wet Days	190
Parliamentary Voters	4884
Local Government Voters	4089
Poor Law Relief Distributed	£764 8s. 4d.
Primary Vaccinations ... }	Figures unobtainable on Application
Exemption Certificates Granted }	
Dried Milk supplied under Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 118 lbs. to 8 Mothers.	



HECKMONDWIKE URBAN DISTRICT.

CENSUS, 1921.

BUILDINGS, DWELLINGS, ROOMS and FAMILIES.

Buildings		Popula- tion 1921	Dwell- ings occupi'd by non- private families	Structurally Separate Dwellings by Private Families or Vacant								
In course of Erecti'n	Completed			Vacant on Census Night	Occup'd by Care- taker	1-3 Rooms	4-5 Rooms	6-8 Rooms	9 or more Rooms	Total Dwell- ings	Total Rooms	
	Not contain- ing Dwell- ings	Contain- ing Dwell- ings										
—	—	2291	8579	1	58	4	1373	769	128	20	2290	7874
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	134	99	354	—	3	—	36	45	16	2	99	424
3	255	10	90	3	—	—	3	3	1	—	7	30
3	389	2400	9023	4	61	4	1412	817	145	22	2396	8328

BIRTH and DEATH RATES SINCE 1900
IN HECKMONDWIKE with comparative
1923 figures for the rest of the Country.

YEAR	Population estimated to Middle of each year (Registrar General's Figures)	BIRTHS REGISTERED		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Nett.		Under 1 year of age		At all Ages	
		Number	Rate	Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number	Rate
Yearly Averages 1900-09	9,613	190	19.81	29	152	160	16.6
1910-19	9,064	169	18.5	19	109	148	16.8
Year 1920	9,191	203	22.0	22	108	147	15.9
1921	9,140	198	21.6	15	75	135	14.7
1922	9,110	176	19.3	13	73	141	15.4
1923	9,087	144	15.8	11	76	98	10.7
1923—England and Wales ...			19.7		69		11.6
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns incl. London ...			20.4		73		11.6
157 Smaller Towns ...			19.8		68		10.6
London ...			20.2		61		11.2

Births, Leg. 129 } Total 144
 Illeg. 15 }
 M. F. Birth } 15.8
 80 64 Rate }
 Deaths 98. Death Rate 10.7
 Deaths of Infants under 1 year
 Leg. 10; Illeg. 1. Total 11.

Number of women
 dying in, or in
 consequence of
 child birth } from Sepsis, Nil.
 } from other
 } causes, Nil.
 Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil.
 Deaths from Whooping Cough
 (all ages) 2
 Deaths from Diarrhoea (under
 2 years) Nil.

Causes of DEATH in HECKMONDWIKE
during 1923 and a comparison with
previous years since 1919.

	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	Total.
Enteric Fever						
Small Pox						
Measles	2			1		3
Scarlet Fever... ..			1			1
Whooping Cough					2	2
Diphtheria			1			1
Influenza	12	3	4	2	1	22
Erysipelas						
Phthisis	8	11	4	9	6	38
Tuberculous Meningitis	2					2
Other Tubercular Diseases	2	1	1	1	3	8
Cancer	11	15	14	10	8	58
Rheumatic Fever			1	1	1	3
Meningitis						
Heart Disease	20	19	21	23	15	98
Bronchitis	14	11	11	18	9	63
Pneumonia	10	13	10	10	2	45
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	1	1	1	2	7
Diarrhoea, etc., (under 2 years)	1	1	2			4
Appendicitis			1	3	1	5
Cirrhosis of Liver	2			1	1	4
Alcoholism						
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	4	7	3	5	1	20
Puerperal Fever		1		1		2
Parturition		1				1
Congenital Debility, etc.	6	10	7	5	5	33
Violence		4	1	2	2	9
Suicide				1	1	2
Other defined Diseases	50	49	34	26	23	182
Diseases ill defined or unknown				1		1
Anthrax						
Diabetes			1	1	3	5
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.... ..			11	14	10	35
Arterio-Sclerosis			5	5	2	12
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum			1			1
Totals	146	147	135	141	99	667

INFANT MORTALITY. 1923.

Nett deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year of age.

Causes of Death			under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
All Causes	{	Certified ... Uncertified ...	5				5	1		4	1	11
Small Pox	...	...								
Chicken Pox	...	...								
Measles	...	...								
Scarlet Fever	...	...								
Whooping Cough	...	...						1				
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...								
Erysipelas	...	...								
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...								1		
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...								
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...								
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	...								
Convulsions	...	...	1								1	
Laryngitis	...	...								
Bronchitis	...	...								
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...								
Diarrhoea	...	...								
Enteritis	...	...								
Gastritis	...	...								
Syphilis	...	...								
Rickets	...	...								
Suffocation, overlying	...	...								
Injury at Birth	...	...								
Atelectasis	...	...								
Congenital Malformations	...	...								1		
Premature Birth	...	...	3									
Atrophy, Debility and	...	...								
Marasmus	...	...	1							1		
Other Causes	...	...								1		
Total	...	...	5				5	1		4	1	11

Nett births in the year 129 legitimate.
15 illegitimate,

Nett deaths in the year of legitimate infants 10.
illegitimate infants 1.

It will be noted that according to the Registrar General's figures the population of Heckmondwike is decreasing.

The Birth Rate of 15.8 is the lowest on record for Heckmondwike and compares unfavourably with the rest of the country.

The Death Rate of 10.7 per 1000 is also the lowest on record for Heckmondwike, but in this instance there is cause for considerable satisfaction. Whatever views may be held respecting low birth rates, everyone is agreed that a low death rate is the ultimate aim of those concerned in the preservation of the public health.

The INFANT DEATH RATE of 76 per 1,000 births registered is fairly satisfactory and does not compare very unfavourably with other figures. It must be remembered however that one or two deaths make a great difference in death rates where small populations have to be dealt with. The fall in the number of births also acts very adversely in calculating this infantile rate. The facts however, are that whilst there is a small increase in the rate per 1,000, the actual position is a less number of infant deaths during the year than previously. At first sight it appears paradoxical that although you have less deaths, your death rate is higher, but the less number of births during 1923 is the reason.

3. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1923.

NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED 1923										Total Cases Removed to Hospital															
NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.																		At Ages—Years.							
At All Ages																		Under 1	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65	65 and upwards	
1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923			6							1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	
								Small-Pox ...																	
								Cholera (C) Plague (P)																	
								Pneumonia ...		6															
								Malaria ...																	
								Diphtheria (including Membranous Group)		3															
								Erysipelas ...																	
								Scarlet Fever		14															
								Typhus Fever																	
								Enteric Fever																	
								Relapsing Fever (R)																	
								Continued Fever (C)																	
								Puerperal Fever		1															
								Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis																	
								Poliomyelitis																	
								Ophthalmia Neonatorum		3															
								*Pulmonary Tuberculosis		7															
								†Other forms of Tuberculosis		3															
								Totals		37															

* Males, 5 ; Females, 2. † Males, 3 ; Females, Nil. Total deaths amongst cases notified in 1923, 3.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Cases				Vision unimpaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness	Deaths
	Notified	Treated		In hospital				
		At home						
	3	3	—		3	—	—	—

YEAR 1923.

Table shewing relationship between domestic conditions of persons under 15, and incidence of notifiable disease.

Notifiable diseases		Less than 1 person per room		1 to 2 persons per room		More than 2 persons per room	
		Previously Attacked	Not Previously Attacked	Previously Attacked	Not Previously Attacked	Previously Attacked	Not Previously Attacked
Pneumonia	1	...	...
Scarlet Fever	12	...	2
Encephalitis							
Lethargica
Diphtheria	1
Enteric Fever
Malaria
Erysipelas

YEAR 1923.

Attack rates per thousand persons under 15, not known to have had a previous attack.

Notifiable diseases		Less than 1 person per room	1 to 2 persons per room	More than 2 persons per room
Pneumonia	0.1	...
Scarlet Fever	1.3	0.2
Encephalitis				
Lethargica
Diphtheria	0.1
Enteric Fever
Malaria
Erysipelas

This new table is compiled in accordance with the suggestion in Circular 451 of the Ministry of Health. Owing to the small number of notifications of infectious disease in Heckmondwike, during 1923, the figures are few and of little importance. The table will be added to year by year and its utility will be shewn in the future.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES SINCE THE YEAR 1899.

Yearly averages for Five Yearly periods	Small-Pox	Enteric Fever	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Puerperal Fever	Erysipelas	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other forms of Tuberculosis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Pneumonia	Malaria
1899-1903.	1.4	11.2	28.6	3	0.6	8.4					
1904-1908.	18.2	5.4	45.6	4	0.2	5.0					
1909-1913.	...	3.2	8.0	12	0.8	5.0	4.8	0.4			
1914-1918.	...	1.0	7.6	9.4	0.6	4.6	14.8	3.0	1.8		
1919-1923.	...	1.4	19.2	7.2	0.6	3.4	10.2	2.0	4.8	6	0.4
Year 1923.	...	...	14	3	1	...	7	3	3	6	...

Table shewing Zymotic Death rate in Heckmondwike during the last twenty-four years

Yearly Averages	Rate per 1,000 of population	
	Heckmondwike	England and Wales
1899-1903	0.5	0.7
1904-1908	0.6	0.7
1909-1913	0.4	0.6
1914-1918	0.4	?
1919-1923	0.2	?
Year 1923.	0.2	?

DEATHS FROM THE PRINCIPAL ZYMOTIC DISEASES IN HECKMONDWIKE SINCE 1899.

Yearly averages for Five year periods	Measles	Small-pox	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Diarrhoea	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough
1899-1903	2	...	1	1.8	3.4	0.4	2.6
1904-1908	3.4	1	2	0.6	1.8	3.4	1.6
1909-1913	2	...	1.2	...	0.5	0.7	1.2
1914-1918	4.2	...	2	...	0.4	0.4	1.2
1919-1923	0.6	...	0.2	...	0.8	0.2	0.4
Year 1923.	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

TUBERCULOSIS IN HECKMONDWIKE SINCE 1900.

Yearly Averages	Notifications of Phthisis	Notifications of other Tubercular Diseases	Deaths from Phthisis	Phthisis Death Rate	Deaths from other Tubercular Diseases	Death rate from other Tubercular Diseases	Total death rate from all forms of Tuberculosis	Removals to Hospitals	
								Phthisis	Other forms of Tuber- culosis
1900-1909	...	...	12	1.23	3.8	0.38	1.62	...	...
1910-1919	14.9	3.0	7.3	0.76	2.1	0.27	1.03	2.5	0.1
1920-1923	10.5	2.0	7.5	0.75	1.5	0.17	0.92	4.0	0.2
Year 1923.	7	3	6	0.6	3	0.3	0.9	1	Nil.

TUBERCULOSIS IN HECKMONDWIKE 1923.

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0			1				1	
1								
5	2							
10								
15		1				1		
20		1						
25			1				1	
35	2		1					
45	1							
55								
65 and upwards								
Totals	5	2	3			1	2	

Table shewing relationship between date of notification and date of death of all persons in Heckmondwike who were certified to have died from Tuberculosis between January 1st, 1913, and December 31st, 1923. It is a guide to the extent to which the requirements as to notification of Tuberculosis are observed by medical practitioners :—

Death before notification	12	Death 6 months after ...	2
Death 1 month, or under, after notification	13	Death 7 months after ...	2
Death 2 months after ...	2	Death 8 months after ...	Nil.
Death 3 months after ...	1	Death 9 months after ...	1
Death 4 months after ...	4	Death 10 months after ...	1
Death 5 months after ...	2	Death 11 months after ...	Nil.
		Death 12 months and over	14

The Regulations respecting notification of Tuberculosis are not strictly observed by practitioners, as the table shows. The County Council is the Authority for the treatment of the disease, and it is interesting to record that since the year 1921 no cases of Tuberculosis were notified to the Medical Officer of Health by the local Tuberculosis Officer.

4. CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

Apart from what has been previously mentioned there were no causes of sickness and invalidity which were specially noteworthy in Heckmondwike during the year. Several Small Pox contacts were at different periods kept under observation, but the year passed without a case being notified, although there were a number in areas comparatively near at hand.

5. SUMMARY (FOR REFERENCE) OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

Professional Nursing in the home. (a) General. This is provided by the Heckmondwike Nursing Association, a voluntary body, which employs one district nurse. There is also an independent nurse who has practised on her own account for some years.

(b) For Infectious Diseases, *e.g.*, Measles, &c. No provision is made from public funds. The Council endeavoured to arrange terms with the Nursing Association some years ago, but were unsuccessful. The Council has also several times endeavoured to persuade the Joint Hospital Board to admit cases of Measles, Pneumonia, Puerperal Fever and Diarrhœa, where, in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health, such is urgently necessary having regard to home circumstances. The Board has always refused. This is regrettable, for such would be easily possible in the few cases likely to be sent without any capital expenditure or the laying of a single brick. In consequence, Heckmondwike residents are debarred from benefits enjoyed in neighbouring areas.

Midwives. Three reside in the Maternity Home. They are paid salaries by the Nursing Association, and attend cases in the Home or on the District. A fourth is in private practice.

Another midwife who resides outside Heckmondwike, occasionally attends cases practising on her own account.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

	ADDRESS	SESSIONS	DAY AND TIME OF MEETING	ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEDICAL SUPERVISION.
Heckmondwike Urban District Council is the Authority for Child Welfare.	George Street Sunday School, Heckmondwike.	For Maternity and Child Welfare Weekly.	Thursdays 2 to 4.	M.O.H. Attends Weekly For Consultation.
	Day Nurseries	None		
	School Clinics	None		
County Council the Authority.	Tuberculosis Dispensary Venereal Diseases Centres.	Outside the District		

For some years there has been great need of a school clinic in Heckmondwike. Up to the present, the County Council, which is the body responsible, has not seen its way to provide one. The consequence is that Heckmondwike scholars do not receive the benefits which are obtainable by others living in similar areas and the School Nurse is unable to do as much for these children as she would otherwise be able to. A number of scholars are seen annually at the child Welfare Centre by the Medical Officer of Health, advice given to parents respecting them, and recommends distributed for hospital treatment. This is no part of his business and entirely outside his duties, but when mothers bring their children to the Welfare Centre they cannot be turned away. This work should be done by the County Council, and would be were a School Clinic established. It is not proper for the Council's Health Visitor, who is also School Nurse, to treat minor ailments at the Council Offices and Welfare Centre.



The Health Visitor has made the following visits to homes during 1923 :—

Antenatal—First Visits	92	
Re-visits	194	
	<hr/>	286
Infants under twelve months—		
First Visits	140	
Re-visits	2068	
	<hr/>	2208
Children between twelve months and five years—Visits		2362
Visits to cases of—		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	17	
Pneumonia (notified)	16	
Tuberculosis	36	
Still Births	6	
Miscellaneous	280	
	<hr/>	
Total	5211	

Every Thursday afternoon the Health Visitor is on duty at the Welfare Centre, George Street Sunday School. The Medical Officer of Health may be consulted here weekly. Tea is provided for mothers by the Heckmondwike Nursing Association. Garments, made by voluntary workers, suitable for infants, are sold at cost price. The Centre is much indebted to Miss Hanson, who, at considerable personal inconvenience and expense, regularly attends from Halifax, and is in charge of the sales of dried milk and other articles, as well as generally assisting in the work performed. I have pleasure in recording the voluntary services of Miss Hanson, which are much appreciated. Miss Hardwick has also occasionally been of great assistance by rendering voluntary service during the Health Visitor's holidays.

As a paid officer of the Council the Health Visitor (Miss Shorter) is in a different category, but once again I am pleased to point out to the Council that the continued success of the Welfare Centre is largely due to Miss Shorter's popularity with the mothers, who appear to hold her in considerable esteem, whilst her enthusiasm and knowledge of her work is of much advantage to the ratepayers generally.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT, 1907.

During 1923 doctors notified 67 births, midwives 119, a total of 186. Of these 6 were still births.

HECKMONDWIKE WELFARE CENTRE.

Attendances of mothers with infants, 1044. Number of mothers on register 138, of whom 3 resided outside Heckmondwike. Average attendance per mother 7.5. At both Centres the individual attendances are much larger than the figures given, which only refer to mothers who have their infants with them. No record is kept of other attendances, such as for the purchase of dried milk, cod liver oil, etc.

MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDER.

118 lbs. were given to 8 mothers. A large number of pairs of boots, stockings, etc., were distributed by the Health Visitor to necessitous children, the expense being defrayed by voluntary subscriptions to a fund for this purpose, instituted by the Chairman of the Council (Mr. B. G. Crowther).

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY LOCAL AUTHORITY OR BY COUNTY COUNCIL.

(1) **Tuberculosis.** County Council provides various sanatoria. (2) **Maternity.** None apart from the Poor Law. Complicated cases are sent into the several local hospitals. There is a Maternity Home in Heckmondwike, supported by voluntary contributions, fees from patients and Government Grant, administered by the Heckmondwike Nursing Association. The Home is not kept entirely for maternity cases. The Heckmondwike Urban District Council is not in any way connected with this establishment, neither are any of the Council's Officers. The Registrar reported the births of 73 infants in the Home during 1922. Of these 23 were the children of Heckmondwike parents, and 50 those of parents who lived in other towns and had gone into the Home for confinement. During 1923 the Registrar's figures were 71 infants born in the Home, of whom 15 were children of Heckmondwike residents, and 56 of parents elsewhere. (3) **Children.** None. (4) **Fever.** Provided by Joint Hospital Board, in which Heckmondwike is a partner. Hospital situated at Chickenley, contains 72 beds and 30 cots. (5). **Small Pox.** Provided by Joint Board. Accommodation 50 beds. (6) **Other.** None, supported from the rates. Heckmondwike patients are admitted to the Leeds, Bradford, Dewsbury and Batley Hospitals.

PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS AND HOMELESS CHILDREN.

None, apart from the Poor Law.

Ambulance Facilities. For infectious cases from Joint Hospital Board. For non-infectious and accident cases, provided by a voluntary committee.

6. LABORATORY WORK.

Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations are carried out by Dr. Sutherland at the County Laboratory, County Hall, Wakefield. Outfits are kept at the Council Offices, Heckmondwike, and delivered to practitioners on request. The figures for the year 1923, as supplied by Dr. Sutherland, are:—Sputa 8, Diphtheria 7, Urine 6, Anthrax 1, Water 1, Ringworm 11, Miscellaneous 1, Total 35. Diphtheria antitoxin is supplied by the Council free of charge to medical practitioners for immediate use in their practice. During 1923, 32,000 units, at a cost to the Council of £3 12s. 0d., were supplied on request to doctors. They are disinclined to make use of this essential, preferring the remedy to be used after the patient has been removed to hospital. This is regrettable, an early use of antitoxin, if the greatest benefit is to be obtained, being essential.

7. SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Adoptive Acts and Byelaws.—The following are in force in Heckmondwike:—

	Parts or Sections in force	Date of adoption.
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.	Whole Act	1902.
Infectious Disease Pre- vention Act, 1890.	Whole Act.	1908.
Notification of Births Act, 1907.	Whole Act.	1909.
Heckmondwike Improve- ment Act.	Whole Act.	1905.
Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1907.	Sec. 51	1922.

Bye-law.	Date.
Prevention of Nuisances	1889
Common Lodging Houses	1889
New Streets and Buildings	1889
Slaughter-houses	1889

Regulations under Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order	...	...	...	1912
Hackney Carriages	...	...	...	1889
Baths and Wash-houses	...	...	...	1902
Markets and Fairs	...	...	...	1869
Pleasure Grounds	...	...	...	1923

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, 1923.

No. of Privies with Open Middens	...	...	...	19	} 106
No. of Pail or Tub Closets	...	...	...	4	
No. of Privies with covered Middens	...	...	...	83	
No. of Water Closets	...	...	...	2065	} 2220
No. of Waste Water Closets	...	...	...	155	
No. of Privies and Pail Closets abolished during 1923				3	
No. of Privies and Pail Closets reconstructed during 1923 :—					
(a) as W.C's.	...	...	...	...	33
(b) Others	...	...	...	...	None
No. of Additional Closets provided for old property in 1923 :—					
(a) W.C's.	...	...	...	...	8
(b) Others	...	...	...	...	None
No. of Closets constructed in 1923 for New Houses :—					
(a) W.C's.	...	...	...	...	2
(b) Others	...	...	...	...	None
No. of additional Water Closets constructed in 1923 for Factories, Workshops and Institutions					16

1923 SCAVENGING. Disposal of Refuse.

To Destructor	...	...	...	2209 loads.
To Tips	...	...	...	1310 loads.
Total	...	...	...	3519 loads.
Total annual cost	...	...	...	£2221 14s. 0d.
Metal Bins	...	...	...	1164
Brick receptacles	...	...	...	258
Middens	...	...	...	67
Defective Metal Bins renewed	...	...	...	56
Additional Metal Bins provided for old property	...	...	...	42
9 brick receptacles have been replaced by 42 covered metal bins.				
24 middens have been replaced by 47 covered metal bins.				

The Cleansing Department is under the control of the Surveyor to whom I am indebted for the following information :—

REFUSE DESTROYER.

On the 20th January, 1923, an enquiry was held by J. C. Dawes, Esq., O.B.E., of the Ministry of Health, into the Council's application for sanction to borrow £1,000 for the reconstruction of their Refuse Destroyer Works in Beck Lane. This work comprised the rebuilding of two Horsfall Furnaces from the grate level upwards and the reconstruction of new combustion chamber and ironwork complete. The Contractors were the New Destroyer Co., Ltd., of Pershore, and the work was carried out under the direction of the Surveyor to the Council.

SEWERAGE.

Extensions to the Council's Sewerage system in New North Road have been carried out to deal with the Sewage from the Housing Scheme.

The Council have also under consideration the laying of a new Outfall Sewer at a cost of approximately £11,000.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

No alterations have been carried out at the Sewage Disposal Works, but the Council have under consideration a scheme for the putting in of a new Cast Iron Supply Pipe to the five percolating filters, capable of dealing with 1,500,000 gallons per day.

WORK OF SANITARY INSPECTOR UNDER ARTICLE 19 OF THE SANITARY OFFICERS ORDER 1922.

YEAR 1923.

Total No. of Inspections <i>re</i> Nuisances	915
Informal Notices served	121
Informal Notices complied with	101
Statutory Notices served	11
Statutory Notices complied with	9
Total No. of Nuisances in hand at close of 1922	26
Total No. of Nuisances in hand at close of 1923	28
Total No. of Nuisances reported during 1923	116
Total No. of Nuisances abated during 1923	114
Legal Proceedings	None

The following Nuisances were found on inspection during 1923 :—

Choked W.C's.	8
Defective & Choked Drains	18
Defective Privies and Pail Closets	40
Manure Accumulations	14
Defective Dry Ashes Places	11
Defective Metal Bins	43
Keeping of Animals and Poultry	2
Defective W.C. Apparatus... ..	4
Defective Urinal	1
Insanitary Premises	3
Insufficient W.C. Accommodation	1
Other	1
	<hr/>
	146
	<hr/>

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Total No. of Slaughterhouses	6
Registered	5
Licensed	1
Total No. of Inspections	115

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Tallow Melting	1
Fat Melting	3
Tripe Boiling	3
Bone Boiling	1
Guts Scraping	1
Fellmongering	1
Total Inspections	35

BAKEHOUSES.

No. on Register	9
Total Inspections	76

RESTAURANTS.

No. on Register	4
Inspections	32
Common Lodging Houses	1
Inspections	14

Disinfection and Disinfestation. Disinfection of premises is performed by fumigation and spraying with formaldehyde. Where necessary, articles of bedding and clothing are sent to the steam disinfector at Batley, a charge being made for these services. There were 17 disinfections of premises during 1923. It is not the fault of the Heckmondwike Council that a modern disinfecting station is not possessed, as is explained in previous Annual Reports.

The condition of the slaughter houses structurally, with the exception of that of the Co-operative Society,—is bad, and cannot reasonably be improved. The advantages to butchers and customers of central slaughtering were demonstrated throughout the War. Systematic meat inspection is not carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, but being Markets Inspector opportunity is afforded him for the oversight of meat and foods exposed here for sale. It is remarkable that during the year there were no seizures or surrenders of diseased or unsound food.

There are sixteen fried fish shops on the register and 36 inspections were reported. The trade organisation petitioned the Council in 1922 to adopt Bye-Laws for the regulation of the trade. I recommended the Council to accede to the request on the ground that the ultimate advantage was with the public, and the Council itself would possess additional powers for preventing nuisances arising from the trade. Application to the Ministry of Health for permission to adopt Sec. 51 of the Public Health Acts, Amendment Act 1907, was granted, but before proceeding to obtain the Bye-Laws obtainable under this section, the Council decided to leave the matter in abeyance for the present. I trust reconsideration will be given to this before the present year expires.

MILK SUPPLY.

	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922,	1923
Cowsheds	6	8	8	9	7	8	6	6
Milch Cows (approx. number)	37	50	50	62	52	62	57	60
Cowkeepers	2	3	3	4	3	4	3	3
Cowkeepers who are also Milk Purveyors	None	2	2	3	2	3	2	2
Milk Purveyors only	16	7	7	7	8	8	8	14
Number of Inspections	19	35	31	26	35	34	26	49

On pages 16 and 17 of my report for 1922, particulars are given of all the cowsheds and dairies in Heckmondwike with recommendations for the necessary steps required to put them in reasonable sanitary condition. Nothing has been done in the case of the cowsheds. I again recommend that this matter should be dealt with. The Council has the power to do this, the cowkeepers would have their cattle housed in more hygienic surroundings with less risk of Tuberculosis and other diseases, which means a financial saving, whilst most important of all, the general public would benefit through the milk they pay for being produced under better conditions.

The following is an extract from the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health to this Council (the late Dr. Broughton) for the year 1899:—

“It is quite time that steps were taken for the registration and supervision of Cowsheds and Milkshops. Milk is such an important article of food, especially for the young, and it is now well known that diseases can be communicated through its medium. It is therefore very essential that such premises should not be overcrowded, should have sufficient air space, and should be well ventilated, so that the cows should not suffer from impure and deleterious atmosphere, and the milk thereby deteriorated in quality and quantity.”

These remarks, made twenty-five years ago, are, so far as the cowsheds are concerned, true to-day. If the Council does take action it cannot be charged with being hasty or drastic in view of the above.

THE QUARTERLY REPORTS OF THE COUNCIL'S VETERINARY INSPECTOR ARE AS FOLLOWS :-

Bank Foot House,
Batley,

December 31st, 1923.

To Dr. Pearce,
Medical Officer of Health,
Heckmondwike.

SIR,

“I have again the pleasure of submitting my Report of the Inspection of Milk Cows in your Urban area during this month. The general condition of the Cows and the Udders quite satisfactory. I am well satisfied with all the Cows on the three Farms.

Yours faithfully,

GEO. WHITEHEAD, M.R.C.V.S.,

March 31st., 1923.

SIR,

I have pleasure in again submitting my report for the Inspections of Milk Cows in your area during January, February and March. The general condition of the Cows with one exception, is very satisfactory; the exception is a Cow (not an old one) very low in condition, in fact, Poor, suffering from Lung trouble, I think Emphysematous.

With the exception of four cases of Indurated Quarters, very little secretion of Milk (and that not used) due to attacks of Mastitis, and one from an injured duct, the Udders of the Cows are satisfactory.

Yours faithfully,

GEO. WHITEHEAD, M.R.C.V.S.

June 2nd, 1923.

SIR,

I have again pleasure in submitting my report of Inspection during last month. The general condition of the Cows is satisfactory, and Cows' Udders also satisfactory. On one Farm a Cow extremely thin, aged, not unlike a case of Tuberculosis of the Bowels, secretion of Milk from this Cow practically nil. Will watch developments.

Yours faithfully,

GEO. WHITEHEAD, M.R.C.V.S.

September 30th, 1923.

SIR,

I have again pleasure in submitting my report of Inspection during this month, of Milk Cows in the Heckmondwike area. The general condition of the Cows is very satisfactory, a marked improvement in Lund's Cows.

I am satisfied with the Cows' Udders, one case of Indurated Quarter (hind) not Tubercular. This was a fat Cow giving little milk, sold to kill, awaiting drover.

The aged thin Cow mentioned in June report was speedily disposed of, and not for Human Food.

Yours faithfully,

GEO. WHITEHEAD, M.R.C.V.S.

During the year the Committee devoted considerable attention to the hygienic conditions under which milk, milk vessels and utensils were kept by retailers. For many years it had been customary for some to carry on their business in such a manner that the public health was likely to be endangered by their methods, as, for instance, milk vessels being kept in small houses in the living room of the dealer, where they were exposed to any infective conditions amongst the occupants and to other objectionable happenings which can easily be imagined. In every instance the dealer was compelled to provide a dairy entirely separate from the house, with which there must be no direct communication. An adequate supply of boiling water must at all times be available for cleansing the milk vessels and utensils, whilst the dairy floor must be flagged or concreted, sufficiently lighted, ventilated, and used for no other purpose than the milk trade. This is a great improvement upon anything of the kind in Heckmondwike previously, but until all milk vessels are properly sterilised by being kept at the temperature of boiling water for at least five minutes, it cannot be said that all that is necessary or desirable for the protection of the public health has been done. No dairy in Heckmondwike sterilises its vessels, which is very easy and inexpensive, but it is hoped during the present year the Committee may decide to take this further step. Improvement in the sanitary condition of milk carts, the vessels and receptacles for vessels in the carts, and the milk churns themselves is urgently necessary, as can readily be seen by passers-by in the streets. A tap should be fitted to all churns and the milk drawn through this by the retailer when serving his customers. Dust from the streets, dirt from the vessels carried in the carts, and from the retailer's clothing when he dips his arms into the churns, could thus be largely prevented from getting into the milk. These improvements are customary in most parts of the country, and will be remembered by holiday makers who have seen them elsewhere. There should be no reason why what is customary in other towns should not be the practice in Heckmondwike, when after all, the object is protection of the public health and purer milk for the householder, who finds the money. Twelve months ago the President of the local farmers' organisation said at a public meeting:—

“ It was the fault of public authorities if milk was not produced now under ideal conditions.” I hope the hint will be acted upon by the Council.

The following extract from an article in the journal "Municipal Engineering and the Sanitary Record" is interesting, shewing, as is well known, how very simple it is for a dairyman to sterilise his milk vessels if he desires to. He is the gainer, because his milk will keep fresh considerably longer and the consumer has not so often to pay for sour milk:—

"The demonstrators lay stress on cleanliness of cows and sheds, cleanliness of workers, and sterilisation of vessels by live steam. Farmers and milkers are first shown how to clean a dirty cow. Though this seems to take a good deal of time in the first instance, when once it is done properly a minute or two only is required afterwards, prior to each milking. The cows are then milked into a covered pail, the type being used having a detachable top, not only to facilitate cleansing, but, as it can be made to fit any existing pail, saves the cost of new pails. The milk is then strained and cooled, if desired, but as the object in view is to produce clean milk which will keep by excluding the cause of its rapid deterioration, the "cooler" is really unnecessary. The importance of real sterilisation is emphasised. It is achieved by the use of the usual farm "copper." A hole is bored in the wood lid, through which is pushed a short peice of tin or copper tube, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter; in fact, an old carbide tin will do if the lid be removed; the bottom cut off and two or three short slits cut in the side of the tin, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. from one end, the cut portions being turned back at right angles. After pushing the tube through the lid, it is then nailed in position. Churns and pails can then be sterilised by current steam just as effectively as if the steam were generated from a pressure boiler, the only difference being a slight increase in the time occupied. After seeing one of these demonstrations, I wonder that any milk producer can afford to carry on in the old way. Is it too much to hope that Somerset's example will be copied by other County Councils?"

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts are administered by the County Council. It would be an advantage, as previously shewn, if the Council's own Sanitary Inspector took over this work, he being closely in touch with local circumstances.

Smoke Abatement.—The Council's Electricity Works is occasionally an offender and there are other chimneys in the Urban District which emit far too much dense black smoke. It has not been customary for the Sanitary Inspector to take regular observations, but in my opinion such is desirable, the results to be submitted to the Sanitary Committee at their next meetings, when such action as may be deemed advisable can be taken.

8. PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

*G. H. Pearce, M.D., D.P.H., L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.,
L.R.F.P. & S., Barrister-at-Law.

HEALTH VISITOR AND SCHOOL NURSE.

*Ethel M. Shorter, 3 years' General Training Certificate; Certificate of the Central Midwives Board.

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

A. K. Greenwood.

*50% salary contribution is received from Exchequer Grants in respect of officers marked *

All devote their whole time to Public Health duties. The Medical Officer is also Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer for the adjoining Borough of Batley. The Health Visitor is directly employed by the Council as such, but the West Riding County Council pays the Heckmondwike Council an annual sum for her part time services as School Nurse under the County Council.

The Sanitary Inspector is also Market Inspector.

9. HOUSING.

Number of New Houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919 or 1923 :—							
(1). By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	None.	
(2). By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection. (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	38
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2. Remedy of defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	38
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3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs ...	None
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—

(a) By Owners	None
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(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	None
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(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ...	None
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B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	None
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—

(a) By Owners	None
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(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	None
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C. Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	2
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	2
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(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit... ..	None
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(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	None
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(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	None
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Mr. Littlewood, the Council's Surveyor, informs me that Contracts have been let for the erection of 12 Scullery type Houses and 12 Parlour type Houses on the Stubley Farm Estate. The roads and sewers for portion of the Estate have been laid and the 12 "A" type Houses are advanced as far as first floor level.

The Minister of Health has approved of the Council's proposals for affording financial assistance to private enterprise in the erection of houses by means of a lump sum grant of £75, and the Council have approved of 30 houses under this scheme. The conditions are that the houses must be completed on or before the 31st December, 1924.

In common with the rest of the country there are many houses in Heckmondwike which need extensive improvements, and others in which the only remedy is closure and demolition. Dampness is a common cause of defect, particularly in the older houses, where no damp proof course was installed when erected. Theoretically it is easy to have all defects in property remedied, but practically such is an impossibility under present conditions. The present restrictions together with the high cost of even trifling repairs—which may readily absorb more than a year's rent—make it in an appreciable number of cases a fact that when all outgoings are paid there is little or nothing left for the landlord, who is often a poorer man than the tenant.

Whether provided by the Local Authority or from private enterprise there is easily room in Heckmondwike for several hundred houses at present. Whether financial circumstances will permit their construction is quite another problem, but the necessity is great.

ROYLE FOLD.

I recommend the Council to again consider the demolition of those houses condemned and in respect of which Closing Orders were made some twelve years ago. The dilapidated buildings are an eyesore to the centre of the town, used by unauthorised persons as a dump for refuse, and harbour rats. The site is of considerable financial value. Its clearance would in every way be an advantage to all parties concerned and a distinct sanitary improvement.

As bearing upon the question of repairs to property and the provision of new houses by private enterprise, the following remarks taken from the local press are of interest:—

The President of the Dewsbury Pioneers' Industrial Society gave some valuable information on the return made to the Society by its house property, information also which throws an important light on the general housing position. He showed that for the nine years 1915-1923 inclusive, the Society's house property, in which capital amounting to £62,085 is invested, had only made an annual return to the Society of 2.2 per cent. It is not to be wondered at that, with so poor a return on capital outlay, there should be so marked an indisposition on the part of private people or co-operative institutions to invest their capital on so poorly productive an enterprise as housing. It is impossible to hope in these circumstances that the housing deficiency will be made up by private enterprise.

CLOSING ORDERS, &c., made under Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

Situation	Date of Representation to Sanitary Com. by M.O.H.	Date of Closing Order.	Date of Determining Order	Date of Demolition Order	Remarks
34, 34A, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, Milton Square 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, Royle Fold 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, Cook Lane	Nov. 27th, 1911 Jan. 22nd, 1912 Feb. 19th, 1912	Dec. 7th, 1911 Feb. 5th, 1912 None made	None made None made None made	None made None made None made	Repaired and used as rag warehouse 1, 3, & 5 used as storerooms others standing empty with doors & windows boarded up 4, 6, 8, 10 & 12 were demolished by owner, remainder repaired and used as joinery works
14, 15, 16, 17, 18, Milton Square	March 18th, 1912	June 24th, 1912	For No. 14 July 7th, 1913	None made	14, made fit for habitation, 15, 16, 17, 18, converted into warehouse
11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27 29, 31 33, 35, 37, 39, 41 Croft Street 20, Walkley Lane	March 18th, 1912 None made	June 24th, 1912 None made	11 to 19, Apl. 28th, 1913 23 to 41, July 9th, 1913 21, Oct. 27th, 1913 None made	None made None made None made	Rendered fit for habitation Closed by owner but relet by him 1916 Used as storeroom
13, Carr Street 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41 43, 45, 47, Upper George Street 27 and 29, Albion Street 6 and 8, Walkley Lane 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, High Street 134, Brighton Street	Oct. 28th, 1912 April 21st, 1913 Dec. 8th, 1913 May 25th, 1914 July 20th, 1914 None made June 21st, 1915 July 25th, 1921 Nov. 13th, 1922 ditto. May 14th, 1923	Nov. 11th, 1912 April 28th, 1913 Dec. 22nd, 1913 June 8th, 1914 July 27th, 1914 None made July 5th, 1915 Aug. 8th, 1921 Nov. 27th, 1922 ditto. May 14th, 1923	None made None made None made None made None made None made None made None made None made	None made None made None made None made None made None made None made None made None made	Rendered fit for habitation and tenanted Demolished by owner Outstanding Dec. 31st, 1923 Demolished by owner Closed by owner, 1914, but relet by him 1917 Closed by owner Repaired, converted into dairy Closed by owner Closed by owner Closed by owner
6, Anthony Square 94, High Street 94, Walkley Lane 28 and 30, Walkley Lane 21 and 23, Kilpin Hill	 Nov. 13th, 1922 ditto. May 14th, 1923	 Nov. 27th, 1922 ditto. May 14th, 1923	 None made None made None made	 None made None made None made	 Closed by owner Closed by owner Closed by owner



The above was the position on December 31st, 1923, as Reported to the Medical Officer of Health by the Housing Inspector

